

## THE CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION, EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS.

### Proceedings.

#### SENATE.

Friday, January 30th, 1824.—Forty-second day.

Mr. RUGGLES, from the Committee on Claims, reported unfavourably on the petition of William W. Wilson. The report was read, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. TAYLOR, of Indiana, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the bill for the relief of James Johnson, without amendment. The report accompanying the bill, was ordered to be printed.

The resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, so as to provide "that no person, having been twice elected to the office of President, shall again be eligible to that office," was read the third time, and the question on passing the same was decided by Yeas and Nays, as follows:

YEAS, 36.—Messrs. Barbour, Barton, Bell, Benton, Chandler, Clayton, D'Wolf, Dickerson, Eaton, Elliott, Findlay, Gaillard, Hayne, Holmes, of Maine, Holmes, of Miss. Jackson, Johnson, of Ken. Johnson, of Louisiana, Kelly, King, of Alab. Lanman, Lowrie, Macon, McIlwaine, Mills, Noble, Palmer, Ruggles, Smith, Talbot, Taylor, of Ind. Thomas, Van Buren, Van Dyke, Ware, and Williams.

NAYS, 3.—Messrs. Edwards, of Conn. Knight, and Seymour.

So the resolution PASSED, and was sent to the other House.

Mr. LOWRIE presented the petition of a number of citizen of Chester and Montgomery counties, in Pennsylvania, praying an increase of the duty on imported iron; and, also, five memorials of citizens of the city and county of Philadelphia, praying a revision of the tariff; which were all referred to the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures.

Mr. EATON, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill confirming the title of John Forbes to a certain tract of land; which bill was read, and ordered to a second reading.

The resolution reported by a Select Committee of the Senate, proposing an amendment of the Constitution of the United States in relation to the election of President and Vice-President, and of Representatives in Congress, was taken up for consideration, as in Committee of the whole, Mr. SMITH in the chair. The question was declared to be upon a resolution proposed by Mr. BENTON, as an amendment to that reported by the Select Committee. [Mr. BENTON's amendment proposes to divide the country into districts, each district having a vote for President and Vice-President, that vote to be decided by the ballots of the people, in primary assemblies, without any intermediate electors; and in case of no choice by the people, then to be decided by the House of Representatives, as at present.]

Mr. BENTON addressed the Senate, at some length, on the subject of his amendment; before he concluded, on motion of Mr. MILLS, the Senate Adjourned to Monday.

Monday, February 2d, 1824.—Forty-third day.

Mr. LLOYD, of Mass. from the Committee on Naval Affairs, made a report on the Privateer Pension Fund; read and ordered to be printed.

Mr. LLOYD, of Mass. offered the following: Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into, and report upon, the present state and circumstances of the Navy Hospital Fund; and, also, to report what alterations are necessary, the better to carry into effect the humane purposes for which that fund was established.

Mr. HOLMES, of Maine, in pursuance of notice heretofore given, asked leave to introduce a bill to secure public moneys in hands of Clerks of Courts, Attorneys, and Marshals, and their Deputies. Leave was accordingly granted; the bill was read, and passed to a second reading.

The following petitions and memorials, were presented and referred.

Sundry merchants and underwriters, of New London, Connecti-

cut, praying indemnity for French spoliations, previous to 1800;—By Mr. EDWARDS, of Conn. [Foreign Relations.]

Sundry citizens of Newbern and Wilmington, North Carolina, praying indemnity for French Spoliations previous to 1800;—By Mr. MACON. [Foreign Relations.]

Sundry auctioneers of the city of Baltimore, praying that they may not be subjected to a tax on auction sales;—By Mr. SMITH: [Commerce and Manufactures.]

Upwards of 1200 merchants and others, of the city and county of Philadelphia, praying that a tax may be imposed on sales at auction;—By Mr. LOWRIE. [Commerce and Manufactures.]

Upwards of 1400 citizens of Baltimore, praying a revision of the Tariff, and a tax on sales at auction;—By Mr. SMITH. [Commerce and Manufactures.]

William Davis and others, of Plymouth, and William Bartlett and others, of Newburyport, in the State of Massachusetts, praying indemnity for spoliations by the French, previous to the year 1800;—By Mr. MILLS. [Foreign Relations.]

Sundry manufacturers of the city of Philadelphia, praying the allowance of drawback on certain articles of American manufacture, when exported for consumption;—By Mr. FINDLAY. [Commerce and Manufactures.]

Mr. CHANDLER, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported unfavourably on the petition of John Pritchard.

Mr. BARTON, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill to regulate surveys of public and private lands, in the Southern part of the State of Alabama, and a bill for the relief of Thomas L. Riddick—which were severally read, and passed to a second reading.

Mr. BARTON, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported unfavourably on the petition of Andrew Henshaw. The report was read, and ordered to be printed.

A communication was received from the Navy Department, accompanied by the usual number of copies of the Navy Register.

In pursuance of the order of the day, the joint resolution reported by a select committee of the Senate, proposing an amendment to the Constitution, in regard to the election of President and Vice-President, was taken up for consideration as in Committee of the Whole, Mr. SMITH, in the chair.

The first question was upon adopting the amendment submitted by Mr. BENTON, in the shape of a new resolution, proposing a division of the country into districts; each district to have one vote for President and Vice-President; that vote to be decided by the ballots of the people, in their primary assemblies; and when no election is made by the people, that the choice shall go to the House of Representatives, as now provided by the Constitution. Mr. BENTON being entitled to the floor, resumed his remarks in support of his proposition; and before he had concluded.

On motion of Mr. VAN BUREN, Adjourned.

Tuesday, February 3d, 1824.—Forty-fourth day.

Mr. LLOYD, of Mass. from the Committee on Naval Affairs, laid on the table a communication, accompanied by numerous documents from the Navy Department, relative to a naval peace establishment; which was read and ordered to be printed.

Mr. RUGGLES, from the Committee on Claims, to whom was re-committed the bill for the relief of Walter S. Chandler, reported the same, with an amendment.

Mr. VAN BUREN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported the bill from the House of Representatives, to repeal an act relative to the compensation of certain Marshals, Clerks, &c. with an amendment.

Mr. VAN BUREN, from the same committee, also reported a bill for the relief of the legal representatives of John Michael.

Mr. BELL, from the Committee on Claims, reported unfavourably on the petition of Sarah Easton and Dorothy Storer.

Mr. BARTON, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill concerning the adjudication of certain land claims in the State of Louisiana; read and passed to a second reading.

Mr. BARTON offered the following resolution: Resolved, That the Committee on Public Lands inquire into the expediency of making further provision, by law, to prevent frauds in the surveying the public lands of the United States, and in making certificates of such surveys. (1)

The resolution offered yesterday by Mr. LLOYD, of Mass. (1) was again read and agreed to.



The report of the Committee on Military Affairs, unfavourable to the petition of John Pritchard, was read and agreed to.

The order of the day, being the proposition submitted by Mr. BENTON, to amend the Constitution of the United States, in regard to the election of President and Vice President, was again taken up. Mr. BENTON resumed, and concluded his remarks on the subject.

On motion of Mr. EATON, the further consideration of the resolution was postponed to Monday next. *Adjourned.*

### Wednesday, February 4, 1824.—Forty-fifth day.

Mr. HOLMES, of Maine, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a bill in further addition to an act to establish an uniform system of naturalization; read, and passed to a second reading.

Mr. BARTON, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill to authorize one of the Registers in the state of Louisiana to report on certain land claims, which were not reported upon by his predecessor in office.

A communication was received from the Department of War, accompanied by statements of the contracts made by that Department during the year 1823.

Mr. LLOYD, of Maryland, presented the petitions of sundry inhabitants of Alexandria, and of Hezekiah Langley, of Washington, in the District of Columbia. Referred to the Committee on the District.

Mr. FINDLAY presented the petition of sundry soap boilers and tallow chandlers of the city of Philadelphia, praying that no addition may be made to the duties on imported Tallow. Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures.

The resolution submitted yesterday by Mr. BARTON, (1) was again read, and agreed to.

The bill, from the House of Representatives, to extend the time for the settlement of private land claims in the territory of Florida, with the amendment thereto, proposed by the Committee on Public Lands, in the Senate, was taken up as in committee of the whole, Mr. MACON in the chair.

This bill proposes to extend, to the first of January next, the time to which the Commissioners appointed under the act of Congress for ascertaining claims and titles to lands in the territory of Florida, were limited in the reception of the evidence of such claims. The amendment proposed by the Committee on Public Lands merely defines the kind of evidence of title to be received; the compensation to the Secretary of the Commissioners, and some other details. A debate arose on the subject, in which Messrs. EATON, CHANDLER, LLOYD, of Md. LOWRIE, LLOYD, of Mass. MILLS, FINDLAY, SMITH, BARTON and BELL, took part. A motion to postpone the subject indefinitely, made by Mr. CHANDLER, was lost, as was also a motion by Mr. LLOYD, of Md. to amend the bill so as to reduce the jurisdiction of the Commissioners from claims of 3500 acres, to those which comprise only 1000 acres. On motion of Mr. FINDLAY, the section which requires the Secretaries of the Board of Commissioners, who have received salaries, to refund any fees which they may have received from claimants, for making record of their claims, was stricken out.

The bill was then reported to the Senate, with the amendments. Mr. LLOYD, of Maryland, moved to restore the section which was stricken out, on motion of Mr. FINDLAY, in committee of the whole, which was agreed to—and the bill, as amended, passed to a third reading.

On motion of Mr. DICKERSON, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of Executive business, *Adjourned.*

### Thursday, February 5, 1824.—Forty-sixth day.

On motion of Mr. JOHNSON, of Louisiana, the petition of Col. Daniel Brown, presented at the last session, and not then acted upon, was again referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. LLOYD, of Mass. presented the petition of sundry merchants of the town of Newburyport, in the state of Massachusetts, praying indemnity for French spoliations, previous to 1800. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. FINDLAY presented three memorials of citizens of Philadelphia, praying a revision of the Tariff. Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures.

Mr. FINDLAY laid on the table a resolution of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, instructing their Senators, and requesting their Representatives, in Congress, to use their efforts to obtain such a revision of the existing Tariff, as will tend to encourage the domestic manufactures of the country.

Mr. HAYNE presented the memorial of the Chamber of Commerce of Charleston, S. C. praying the establishment of an uniform system of bankruptcy. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The bill from the other House, to extend the time for the settle-

ment of private land claims in the territory of Florida, was read the third time, as amended in the Senate, and PASSED.

Mr. NOBLE submitted a resolution of the Legislature of Indiana, instructing the Delegates in Congress from that state, to use their exertions to procure the location of the road from the Ohio river, to the Mississippi, for which surveys were made, under the authority of Congress, some years since. This resolution was referred to the Select Committee on Roads and Canals.

On motion of Mr. NOBLE, the Committee on Pensions was discharged from the further consideration of the petition of Eliza M'Farland; and, on motion of Mr. DICKERSON, the petitioner had leave to withdraw her petition and papers.

The Senate proceeded to consider the report of the Committee on Public Lands, unfavourable to the petition of Andrew Henshaw.

This petitioner claims of the government \$930 82, for surveying performed by him as deputy under a Surveyor of the United States' lands south of Tennessee. He had, according to custom, given to the Surveyor his receipt for this amount, (without, in fact, receiving the money,) in order that the papers might be forwarded to the General Land Office. In the mean while, the Surveyor died, and, at the time of his decease, was in arrears to the government. This deputy Surveyor now prays that he may be paid for his services. The report was opposed by Messrs. KING, of Alabama, and KELLY, and supported by Messrs. EATON and BARTON. A motion, by Mr. KING, to reverse the report, was lost; the report of the committee was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. KING, the petitioner had leave to withdraw his papers.

On motion of Mr. JACKSON, the Senate, as in committee of the whole, Mr. RUGGLES in the chair, took up for consideration the bill to authorize the making of a military road from Fort St. Philip, on the river Mississippi, to the English Turn, as an auxiliary to the defence of New-Orleans.

After some remarks, Mr. J. submitted an amendment, proposing to limit the road to Johnson's plantation, instead of extending it to the English Turn; thus confining it to the lands owned by the United States.

On motion of Mr. HOLMES, of Maine, the bill was postponed, and made the order of the day for to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. SEYMOUR, the bill reported by the Committee on the Contingent Fund of the Senate, as an amendment to that introduced by Mr. EATON, to revise and continue in force an act fixing the compensation of the officers of the Senate and House of Representatives, was taken up in Committee of the Whole.

The amendment proposes that the Clerks in the office of the Secretary of the Senate shall be appointed in such manner as the Senate may, from time to time, prescribe; instead of vesting the appointment, by law, as it has been, in the hands of the Secretary. After a long discussion, on this point, by Messrs. SEYMOUR, HAYNE, LOWRIE, JOHNSON, of Kentucky, HOLMES, of Maine, LANMAN, MILLS, CHANDLER, PARROTT, BROWN, of Ohio, and LLOYD, of Mass. this part of the amendment was rejected.

In the course of the remarks made by Mr. LOWRIE, he took occasion to express himself in terms of high commendation in regard to the present clerks in the Secretary's office. He had very frequently had occasion to call upon them, for the examination of the journals and documents appertaining to their office, and he had as frequently witnessed the assiduity and propriety with which their duties were performed.

After some further remarks by Mr. EATON, the bill, as amended, was reported to the Senate, and ordered to a third reading.

Mr. LLOYD, of Md. submitted the following: *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate pay to the widow of Samuel Turner, junr. deceased, late principal Clerk in his office, the sum of ——— dollars out of the Contingent Fund, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of his funeral. (1) *Adjourned.*

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

### Friday, January 30th, 1824.—Forty-third day.

Mr. WEBSTER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, made a report against the expediency of repealing the 25th section of the act to establish the Judicial Courts of the United States, or of so modifying the same, that the writ of error, therein provided for, may be awarded to either party.

On motion of Mr. A. STEVENSON, the report was laid on the table.

Mr. WILLIAMS, from the Committee of Claims, reported a bill for the relief of Joseph Smith, of Alexandria; twice read, and referred.

Mr. WEBSTER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a



bill to alter the time of holding the Circuit Courts of the United States, for the District of South Carolina; twice read, and committed.

Mr. M'LANE, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill making appropriations for certain fortifications of the United States, for the year 1824; twice read, and committed.

Mr. CAMPBELL, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, reported a bill for the relief of Malachi Burns; twice read, and committed.

Mr. RICH, from the Committee of Claims, made an unfavourable report on the petition of John Armstrong; laid on the table.

Mr. WILLIAMS, from the Committee of Claims, reported a bill for the relief of Stephen Brace; twice read and committed.

Mr. TRACY presented the following: *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to inform this House what purchases of estate of any description, by virtue of sales on execution, have been made in behalf of the United States; also, what estate has been acquired, in any manner, by arrangements with, or assignments from debtors to the United States; what sums have been paid or allowed on account of said purchases and acquisitions, severally; what charges have accrued, and what income has been derived therefrom—who are the several agents who now have, or who heretofore have had, the care of said estate, and what compensation have been allowed to them respectively for these services.

The House then again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. FOOT in the chair, on the bill to provide surveys for Roads and Canals.

Mr. RANDOLPH opposed, and Mr. CLAY supported, the bill. On motion of Mr. TRIMBLE, the committee rose, and reported, and obtained leave to sit again.

Bills from the Senate, for the relief of the President, Directors, and Company, of the Merchants' Bank in Newport, R. I.; confirming the claims of the heirs of Nicholas Baudin, and the heirs of Joseph Chastang, to certain tracts of land; and for the relief of Hanson Kelly; and, also, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, as it respects the election of the President of the United States; were severally read and referred. Adjourned to Monday.

#### Monday, February 2d, 1824.—Forty-fourth day.

Mr. LITTLE, from the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims, made an unfavourable report on the petition of Richard Cammack; laid on the table.

Mr. RANKIN, from the Committee on the Public Lands, reported a bill granting donations of land to certain actual settlers in the Territory of Florida; and a bill supplementary to the several acts providing for ascertaining and adjusting the titles and claims to land in the St. Helena and Jackson Court House Land Districts; which were twice read, and committed.

Mr. HAMILTON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill for the relief of William King; twice read, and committed.

Mr. WHITTLESEY, from the Committee of Claims, reported a bill for the relief of Merce Duval; twice read, and committed.

Mr. MATSON, from the Committee of Claims, reported a bill for the relief of Lemuel Arms; twice read, and committed.

Mr. RANKIN, from the Committee on Public Lands, presented a communication from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, on the present state of the business of that Office; referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

On motion of Mr. MOORE, of Ky. *Resolved*, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a post route from Frankfort, in Kentucky, to Springfield, in Kentucky, by the way of Gists Town and Macsville, in Washington county.

On motion of Mr. BRENT, *Resolved*, That the Committee on the Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of granting a pre-emption right to all persons who are settled upon the public lands on the banks of the Mississippi, for the purpose of aiding and facilitating steam navigation upon said river. Also,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of passing a law to encourage settlements on the public lands upon the banks of the Mississippi river, with a view to improve the navigation of said river. Also,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the rights of the State of Louisiana, to the Cypress Swamps within the limits of said state, and that such report be made as the rights, justice, and expediency, of the case may require.

On motion of Mr. BARBER, of Conn. *Resolved*, That the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims be instructed to inquire into the expediency of placing Joshua Bell, of Grotton, Connecticut, an invalid soldier of the Revolutionary Army, on the Pension Roll.

On motion of Mr. M'Coy, *Resolved*, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a branch of the District Court for the Western District of Virginia, at Staunton.

On motion of Mr. FLOYD, *Resolved*, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a post route from Fincastle, in Bole-tourt County, by Blacksburgh, in Montgomery, to Giles Court House, Virginia.

On motion of Mr. MOORE, of Ala. *Resolved*, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be instructed to inquire into the propriety of establishing a post route from Bellfonte, in Jackson county, Alabama, by the way of Gunter's Landing, to Blountsville.

On motion of Mr. COCKE, Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, the orders of the day were postponed, to take up a bill for the appointment of two additional Indian agents. The House accordingly went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. CONDUCT in the chair, on the consideration of the bill.

This bill provides, 1st, "That, from and after the passage of this act, the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to appoint two Indian Agents, in addition to those already provided by law, to be stationed on the Western side of the Mississippi, at such places as he may think proper. 2d. That the Agents appointed according to the provisions of this act, shall receive a compensation for their services, of 1300 dollars, each, in full, and that all rations, or other allowances, made to them, shall be deducted from the sums hereby allowed.

The object of the bill, as well as the circumstances which gave rise to it, were stated by Mr. COCKE, who referred the Committee to a letter of the Secretary of War. This letter, together with a document accompanying it, exhibiting the present number and emoluments of all the Indian Superintendents, Agents, and Sub-Agents, now employed by the United States, was read, at the request of Mr. RANKIN.

The expediency of the bill was advocated by Messrs. COCKE, CONWAY, CLAY, and COOK, and opposed by Messrs. RANKIN, ROSS, FLOYD, VANCE, of Ohio, and FOOT, of Connecticut.

Mr. COCKE moved to fill the blank, designating the salary, with \$1,300, which was carried.

Mr. SCOTT proposed to amend the bill, by inserting the words, "In the Territory of Arkansas and west thereof;" but, before the question was taken, on motion of Mr. FOOT, of Conn. the Committee rose and asked leave to sit again—which was refused by the House.

Mr. COOK then moved that the bill lie on the table—which motion prevailed; and the bill was ordered to lie on the table.

A message was received from the President of the United States, with a report of the Secretary of State, communicating a Digest, showing such changes of the Commercial Regulations of the different foreign countries with which the United States have intercourse, as have been adopted and come to the knowledge of the Executive, since the formation of the Digest communicated to the Senate on the 7th Dec. 1819—prepared in pursuance of a resolution of the House, of 30th Jan. last.

A message was received from the President of the United States, in compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 11th of December last, requesting him to communicate to the House all such parts of the correspondence with the government of Spain relating to the Florida Treaty, to the period of its final ratification, not heretofore communicated, as, in his opinion, it might not be inconsistent with the public interest to communicate, transmitting a report from the Secretary of State, with copies of the documents requested.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of the Navy, containing the Navy Register for the present year. Adjourned.

#### Tuesday, February 3d, 1824.—Forty-fifth day.

Mr. CAMPBELL, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made an unfavourable report on the petition of John Buhler; laid on the table.

Mr. CROWKINSHIELD, from the Committee to whom was referred the bill from the Senate, entitled an act regarding the officers and crews of two gigs, or small boats, under the command of Lieut. Francis H. Gregory, of the United States' Navy, reported the same without amendment—and it was committed to a committee of the whole.



Mr. HARVEY, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, made an unfavourable report on the petition of Catharine Young; ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. EDWARDS, of N. C. from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made an unfavourable report on the petition of John L. Polereczky; laid on the table.

Mr. EDWARDS, from the same committee, reported a bill for the relief of Samuel Rist; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. VINTON, from the Committee on the Public Lands, reported a bill authorizing payment for lands erroneously sold by the United States; twice read and committed.

Mr. NEWTON, from the Committee on Commerce, made a report, accompanied with a bill to authorize the issuing of a Register to the Brig William, of New-York; twice read and laid on the table.

Mr. COCKE, from the Committee on Military Affairs, presented the following; *Resolved*, That the President of the United States be requested to communicate to this House a statement showing the situation of any suits which have been, or are now depending, in which the United States are interested, for the recovery of the possession of a tract of land commonly called the "Pea Patch," and on which Fort Delaware is situated, specifying the amount of money paid by the United States in each case, to whom paid, and the times, respectively, by whom, on what account, and from what fund. (1)

On motion of Mr. COCKE, *Resolved*, That the Committee on Indian Affairs have power to call for persons and papers touching so much of the President's Message of the 22d Dec. 1823, as was referred to said committee.

On motion of Mr. OWEN, *Resolved*, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to examine and report to this House whether, in their opinion, the laws now in force authorize the exaction of duties on tonnage of barges, steam-boats, and other craft, trading wholly on the waters of the Alabama and Tombecby rivers; and whether, by the same laws, licensing and enrolling are also required; and, further, if duties, and licensing, and enrolling, in such cases, are required by law, how far is it expedient to revive the 8th section of the act of the 1st May, 1802, and of extending the provisions thereof to the collection districts of Alabama.

On motion of Mr. WHITTLESEY, *Resolved*, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the necessity and expediency of erecting a light house at some suitable site on the south shore of Lake Erie, east of Chagrin river, and west of the Conneaut creek.

On motion of Mr. GURLEY, *Resolved*, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the legality of the charter granted to the Orleans Navigation Company, by the Government of the late Territory of Orleans, on the 5th July, 1805; and the right of said company to exact and collect a tonnage duty on vessels navigating the river or bayou St. John, in the state of Louisiana; and should the committee be of opinion that the same is illegal, that they report to this House such measures as they may deem most expedient and effectual to adopt, to secure the free navigation of said river.

*Resolved*, That the same Committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of disapproving, by law, of the act of the government of the late territory of Orleans, incorporating the Orleans Navigation Company, passed on the 5th July, 1805.

On motion of Mr. STANDEFER, *Resolved*, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a post route from Morgan Court House, Tennessee, by way of Kingston, Athens, and Columbus, to Spring-place post office, on the present route leading from Nashville to Augusta, in the state of Georgia.

On motion of Mr. A. STEVENSON, *Resolved*, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the several laws relating to the districts of Bermuda Hundred and City Point, in the state of Virginia, as to permit ships or vessels arriving in ballast, to make entry in the manner now provided by law for vessels laden with goods, wares, and merchandise.

On motion of Mr. RICH, *Resolved*, That the Committee of Claims be instructed to inquire into the expediency of discharging from their liability, either in whole or in part, the sureties of Walter Sheldon, deceased, late a District Paymaster in the army of the United States.

On motion of Mr. COOK, *Resolved*, That the Committee on the Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the President to cause a Land Office to be opened at some

point near the route proposed for a canal to connect the waters of Lake Michigan with the Illinois river, when he shall deem it expedient.

On motion of Mr. M'LANE, of Delaware, *Resolved*, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the public stock of the United States to be purchased and sold by the Courts in the several states.

On motion of Mr. WHITE, *Resolved*, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing by law a post route from the Seat of Government in Kentucky, by the way of Christiansburgh, in Shelby county, and New Castle, Henry county, to the seat of justice in Oldham county.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the Department of War, transmitting a statement of appropriations for the service of the year 1823, showing the amount appropriated under each specific head, the amount expended under each, and the balance remaining unexpended in the Treasury on the 31st Dec. 1823; which was referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the Department of the Treasury, accompanied by a letter from the Commissioner of the General Land Office with all the books and reports of the several Boards of Commissioners and Recorder of land titles, made out and transmitted to the Treasury Department, under the several acts of Congress, and the instructions predicated thereon relative to the adjustment of land titles in the former district of Louisiana and territory of Missouri, now state of Missouri and territory of Arkansas, forwarded in obedience to a resolution of the House on the 14th ultimo; which was referred to the Committee on the Public Lands.

On motion of Mr. HEMPHILL, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Foor in the chair, on the bill making provision for procuring the necessary surveys, estimates, &c. for roads and canals.

Mr. TRIMBLE having ceded his right to the floor—

Mr. J. S. BARBOUR rose, and expressed his sentiments in favour of the bill. He was followed by Mr. TUCKER, who spoke in opposition to the bill. Mr. REEVES followed Mr. TUCKER on the same side, and, having made some progress in his speech, gave way for a motion to rise, when the committee obtained leave to sit again. *Adjourned*.

Wednesday, February 4, 1824.—Forty-sixth day.

Mr. EDDY, from the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims, made an unfavourable report on the petition of Samuel Holwell; laid on the table; and it was then ordered, That Samuel Holwell have leave to withdraw his petition and papers.

Mr. WILLIAM SMITH, from the same committee, made an unfavourable report on the petition of Thomas Cox, and Daniel Palmer, on behalf of sundry pensioners residing within the District of Columbia, for an increase of pension; laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims, be discharged from the consideration of the petition of John Alstell, and that it be referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions.

Mr. M'COY, from the Committee of Claims, made a report on the petition of Joshua Bennett, accompanied by a bill for his relief; which bill was read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the Whole House, to-morrow.

Mr. M'COY, from the same committee, made an unfavourable report, on the petition of John W. Baylor; laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Committee of Claims, be discharged from the consideration of the petition of John S. Moffitt, and that it be referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. HAMILTON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made a report on the petition of Ephraim Sutton; read, and the resolution therein recommended, was agreed to, viz:

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Military Affairs be discharged from the further consideration of the petition of Ephraim Sutton, and that he have leave to withdraw his papers, as the accounting officers of the Treasury have ample power to adjust his claims, so soon as he supplies the required testimony in his case, which the committee see no reason to dispense with.

Mr. VINTON, from the Committee on the Public Lands, to which was referred on the 12th ultimo, the memorial of the Legislature of the territory of Arkansas, made a report thereon, accompanied by a bill concerning pre-emption rights in the territory of Arkansas; which bill was read the first and second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House, to-morrow.



Mr. FOOT, of Conn. from the Committee for Enrolled Bills, reported that the Committee did this day present to the President of the United States, for his approbation, an enrolled bill, entitled "*An act for the relief of Samuel Wharton*," and an enrolled resolution, in relation to an intended visit of the Marquis de la Fayette to the United States.

Mr. HOLCOMBE, from the Committee appointed on the petition of Augustus F. Camman, made an unfavourable report thereon; laid on the table.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting statements of all contracts made by the War Department, in the year 1823; ordered to lie on the table.

The SPEAKER also laid before the House, a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, accompanying a statement exhibiting the duties accruing on merchandize exported, and drawback payable on merchandize exported during the years 1820, 1821 and 1822; laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Committee of the whole House, to which is committed the report of the Committee of Claims on the petition of Frederick Perley, be discharged from the further consideration thereof, and that the said report and petition be recommitted to the Committee of Claims.

Ordered, That 1370 copies of the Digest of the commercial regulations of foreign countries, communicated to this House on the 2d inst. be printed, in addition to the usual number.

On motion of Mr. A. STEVENSON, Resolved, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be instructed to enquire into the expediency of establishing by law, a post route from the Short Pump in Henrico county, state of Virginia, to Dentonville, in the county of Hanover.

The resolution submitted yesterday by Mr. COCKE, (1) was taken up, read and agreed to by the House.

The House took up and proceeded to consider the bill to authorize the issuing a Register to the brig *William of New-York*, and the said bill having been read and debated, was again laid on the table.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill to provide the necessary plans, estimates and surveys upon the subject of Roads and Canals. Mr. RIVES completed his remarks in opposition to the bill; he was followed by Mr. BUCHANAN in favour, and Mr. M'DUFFIE against the bill.

The SPEAKER resumed the Chair, and Mr. FOOT, of Conn. reported that the Committee had, according to order, again had the said bill under consideration and made further progress therein, and directed him to ask leave to sit again.

Ordered, That the Committee of the Whole House have leave to sit again on the said bill. Adjourned.

Thursday, February 5th, 1824.—Forty-seventh day.

Mr. WHITTLESEY, from the Committee of Claims made an unfavourable report on the petition of Henry Lee; laid on the table.

Mr. LITTLE, from the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims, made an unfavourable report on the petition of John Barberick; laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. P. P. BARBOUR, Resolved, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be instructed to inquire into the propriety of allowing an additional compensation to William F. Gray, postmaster at Fredericksburgh, Virginia.

The House then again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. FOOT in the chair, on the bill for obtaining the necessary surveys, estimates, &c. for roads and canals.

Mr. M'DUFFIE concluded the speech which he commenced yesterday in support of the bill; Mr. SRAIGHT, of N. C. followed in opposition, and Mr. REYNOLDS, of Tenn. in favour of the bill. Mr. P. P. BARBOUR then moved to strike out the enacting clause of the bill.

Mr. TRIMBLE suggested that, as the House was very thin, and some members absent, who probably desired to speak on the subject, it would be proper to have time allowed for a call of the House before the subject was finally acted upon.

A motion being made that the committee rise—

The Chairman decided it to be out of order, the hour prescribed by a rule of the House (4 o'clock,) having not arrived.

Mr. P. P. BARBOUR, disclaiming all wish on this or any other occasion, to take advantage of a thin House to obtain a vote—more especially as such vote, if now obtained, would not be final on the bill, expressed a wish that, by general consent, the committee would

rise. Before the question was taken—Mr. A. SMYTH rose, in opposition to the bill, before he completed his remarks, he gave way for a motion to rise.

The SPEAKER resumed the chair, and Mr. FOOT, of Conn. reported that the committee had according to order, again had the said bill under consideration, and had made further progress therein, and directed him to ask leave to sit again.

Ordered, That the Committee of the whole have leave to sit again on said bill.

A message, in writing, was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. Everett his Secretary, as follows:

To the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States.

Washington February 2d, 1824.

I transmit to the House of Representative, a report from the Secretary of State, agreeably to a resolution of that House of the 11th of December last, with the papers which accompanied that report.

JAMES MONROE.

The said message was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Everett also notified the House, that the President did on the 31st ult. approve and sign, "*An act for the relief of Garrett Fountain*," and "*An act to authorize the surveying and making a road from a point opposite to Memphis, in the state of Tennessee, to Little Rock, in the territory of Arkansas*," and on the 4th inst. "*An act for the relief of Samuel Wharton*," and a resolution in relation to an intended visit of the Marquis de la Fayette, to the United States.

Ordered, That the Clerk do acquaint the Senate therewith. Adjourned.

#### Select Committees.

Committee on the Settlement of Columbia River—Messrs. Floyd, Gurley, Scott, Hayden, Bassett, Frost, and Baylies.

On the Report of Expenditures in the Ordnance Department—Messrs. Floyd, Saunders, Dwight, Metcalfe, Tracy, Sharpe, and Spence.

On the petition of Augustus F. Camman—Messrs. Holcomb, Day, Poinsett, Swan, and Richards.

On the Report of the Secretary of War, relative to contracts for cannon. &c. Messrs. Cocke, Smyth, Sterling, Marvin, Buchanan, Bassett, and McLean, of Ohio.

On the motion of Mr. Rich, to amend the Rules of the House.—Messrs. Rich, P. P. Barbour, Cobb, Taylor, Lathrop, Campbell, and Tomlinson.

### Documents.

#### REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

(Accompanying the Presidents Message.)

Post Office Department, 17th November, 1823.

SIR: In obedience to your request, I have the honour to submit the following statement respecting the affairs of this Department.

There is established by law 88,600 miles of Post Roads in the United States, and, at this time, the mail is transported 85,700 miles on these roads, leaving 2,900 miles not yet carried into operation. The mail is transported in stages on 20,943 miles of Post Roads. At the commencement of the next year, the mail will be conveyed on all the routes established, with perhaps one or two exceptions, for which contracts have not yet been made.

The following statement will show the increase of Post Roads in the years specified:

In the year 1819 there was established of Post Roads 9,113 miles.

Do	1820	do	do	do	4,908	do
Do	1821	do	do	do	6,562	do
Do	1822	do	do	do	5,746	do
Do	1823	do	do	do	2,800	do

Making a total increase, in the five years stated, of 29,127 miles.

As near as can be known from the records of this Department, there are about 5,242 post-offices established: means have been taken to ascertain the exact number. The following will show the increase and diminution of the amount due to the Department, by Postmasters, late postmasters, and contractors:

On Dec. 31, 1799, there was due	\$ 84,544 74	On April 1st, 1820, there was due	\$668,473 72
Ditto 31, 1804, 144,457 57		Ditto 1st, 1821, 613,007 96	
Ditto 31, 1809, 215,347 63		Ditto 1st, 1822, 486,358 25	
Ditto 31, 1814, 282,652 19		Ditto 1st, 1823, 435,651 46	



From the 1st of April, 1820, to the 1st of April, 1821, it appears that there was a charge upon the balances due to the Department of

	\$55,464 76
From the 1st of April, 1821, to the 1st of April, 1822,	126,649 91
From the 1st of April, 1822, to the 1st of April, 1823,	50,706 79
	<u>\$232,821 46</u>

To the sum of \$232,821 46, must be added, for expenses incurred in transporting the mail, under bids accepted in cases where contracts have not been executed, or if executed, had not been returned to the Department, about

	\$0,000 00
	<u>262,821 46</u>

The amount of postage which accrued for the three years above stated, was less than the actual expenditures of the Department the above sum of \$262,821 46 cts. But the real deficiency will be found much greater than this sum: for, there should be added the losses that will inevitably take place, in collecting more than a million of dollars in each year, from between five and six thousand Postmasters. The real excess of expenditure, above the receipts for postage, which accrued in the three years stated, cannot be much below three hundred thousand dollars. The whole of this deficiency must have been collected out of the balances due to the Department, except the amount that may yet remain unpaid.

The gross amount of postage which accrued from the 1st of July, 1822, to the 1st of July, 1823, was \$1,114,345 12

The expenditures of the Department during the same period, are as follows:

Compensation to Postmasters, including their incidental expenses, &c.	\$353,995 98
Incidental expenses of the Department	30,366 37
Transportation of the mail	784,600 08
Payment into the Treasury	423 08
	<u>\$1,169,385 51</u>
Amount of postage, as above stated,	1,114,345 12
	<u>\$55,040 39</u>

This balance of \$55,040 39, remains against the department, if every dollar of postage which accrued within the year should be collected. This cannot be expected, and the deficiency will be increased, in proportion to the losses sustained in making collections for the year.

On the 1st of July last, there was due by the Department to contractors, for services rendered prior to that time, \$26,543 64. This sum must be discharged out of the current receipts for postage, or from collections made out of the balances due to the Department. These balances, on the first of July last, amounted to \$391,994 59; \$135,245 28 of which was due from Postmasters; the balance from late postmasters and contractors. As this sum includes delinquencies, which have been accumulating since the organization of the Department; and as large sums have been collected from those balances, within the three last years, a large proportion of the amount, which for some years has been due from late Postmasters and contractors, may safely be assumed as lost.

There is now about \$160,000 in suit against late Postmasters, and, in a very short time, suits will be commenced for all balances, except those which are due by Postmasters in office.

Not more than \$250,000 will probably be collected from the total amount of balances due to the Department. And to realize this amount, some years of unremitting exertions will be necessary. A great majority of the accounts are for less than one hundred dollars each, and some hundreds of suits must be brought, in addition to those now pending.

It was the constant endeavour of my predecessor, for some years past, to reduce the expenditures of the Department within its receipts; and the reduction of the balances due to the Department shows, that, within the three last years, large sums have been realized from that source.

In making the late contracts, the expenditure has been reduced on routes in operation \$47,821 12. And it is believed, that the public convenience has been promoted by contracts to have the mail conveyed in stages, on several important routes. There will be in operation, the next year, stages for the conveyance of the mail from the city of Washington to St. Louis, and probably to Franklin, in Missouri, as a proposition has been made by the Department for an extension of the line from St. Louis to Franklin. The weight of the mail and its security, requires stages on this route.

The routes established at the last session of Congress, which

will go into operation at the commencement of the ensuing year, amount to \$14,021; new routes are always found unproductive, and it may be safely estimated, that two thirds of this sum will be a charge on the revenue of the Department, from other sources, for some years to come.

A contract has not yet been made for the transportation of the mail on the route from St. Augustine, in East Florida, to Pensacola, which was established by act of Congress, in the session of 1822.

Diligent inquiry has been made, and it does not appear, that there is a road between these places, on the route designated, on which the mail can be conveyed. There are Indian paths, which pass through different Indian settlements, but none, it is understood, that extend for any considerable distance, on the proper direction. The want of a road is not the only obstacle on this route. Almost the whole distance is an uninhabited wilderness, except a few Indian villages, and it is represented, that very large and impassable swamps and lakes will render the passage of the mail, in some places, impracticable.

The lowest responsible bid that has been made for the conveyance of the mail on this route, is four thousand dollars: and it is confidently believed, that the route will not add two hundred dollars to the receipts of the Department. As this is an established route, I shall deem it my duty to accept the best bid which has been made, and close the contract, so that an attempt to transport the mail on it may be made, unless Congress shall think proper to modify or repeal the law.

It is understood, that, whilst Congress are willing that all the revenue of this Department shall be appropriated in extending the travel of the mail, they are unwilling to provide for this accommodation, to any considerable extent, by appropriations from the Treasury.

It is, therefore, an object of great importance, to bring the expenditures of the Department, at least, within its receipts. This may be done by discontinuing the unprofitable routes, the expenses of which greatly exceeds the convenience to the public, and by a rigid economy in the administration of the affairs of the Department.

If Congress, at the ensuing session, will discontinue unproductive routes, so as to lessen the expenditure twenty five thousand dollars, including the expense of the new routes which they may establish, it is believed that the expenditure of the Department may be brought within its receipts for the ensuing year. It will be remarked, that the amount of reduction here proposed, is less than the sum due to contractors on the first of July last.

There has been paid into the Treasury of the United States, by this Department, since its organization \$1,089,337 29.

The receipts of the Department, it is expected, will be greater the ensuing year than the present. An arrangement has been made, respecting the postage on newspapers, which will probably increase the receipts nearly thirty thousand dollars.

The average amount received from this source, has been about \$66,600 annually. There are more than 560 newspapers printed in the Union. It has been estimated that, on an average, each newspaper office sends three hundred papers, weekly, in the mail, one-fourth of which are supposed to be sent out of the state or territory in which they are printed. This would give an increase to the revenue of the Department of nearly \$40,000.

Some country papers may not send, weekly, in the mail, more than from fifty to a hundred papers, but some offices are known to send from ten to twenty thousand. From the best data, on which a calculation can be made, it is believed, that something near the estimated result may be produced. But, as fifty per cent. of the postage on newspapers is paid to Postmasters for their compensation, only one half of the increased receipts from this item will be added to the means of the Department.

The deficiencies in the receipts from this item, which are believed to exist, do not arise from any want of integrity in Postmasters, but rather from indulgences which they are in the practice of extending for newspaper postage. It is believed that they generally render an account of the amount received, but they fail to collect what might have been required in advance. An arrangement will soon be made, to draw drafts on each Postmaster quarterly, for the postage received. This will be done, by arranging the different Post Offices under the numbers of the respective routes on which they are situated, and requiring the receipts of the offices on each route to be exhausted by drafts to the contractor for the route, before he is paid from any other source. If there be a deficiency of funds on the route to pay the contrac-



tor, he can be paid by drafts on some other convenient offices, or by checks on banks where funds of the Department may be deposited.

If there be a surplus of funds on the route, they can be drawn for in favour of some contractor on a convenient route, or deposited in some bank, as convenience may require. The large offices will all be required to deposit in banks.

This arrangement will supersede the practice of remitting by mail, as heretofore, and it will induce a much greater punctuality of payment, as Postmasters will always expect quarterly drafts, however small their receipts. This plan will enable the Department to realize, quarterly, the postage paid, more certainly, it is believed, than any other mode which can be adopted.

In making remittances to the Department, about one thousand dollars have been lost, annually; and, as the same money is sent by mail to the contractors, sometimes into the neighborhood from whence it was remitted, the loss in the transmission must at least be equal to that of remitting by Postmasters. By the arrangement proposed, the labour of the Department will be lessened, and the moneys appropriated will always appear by the transactions of the office, without passing through the hands of any one employed in the General Post Office.

No check whatever, except the integrity of the Postmaster, and of the receiving clerk in the Department, has heretofore existed, for all the moneys which have been remitted. If the Postmaster states that he has remitted any amount, and will make affidavit of the fact, he obtains a credit, though the money has never been received. Should the clerk who receives the quarterly return, in which the remittance is usually enclosed, take the amount, and destroy the return, there is nothing that can lead to a discovery. The return is supposed to have been lost in the conveyance.

Without entertaining any illiberal suspicions against either Postmasters or clerks, such a system is considered as radically defective, and a change is deemed indispensable. It is believed, that no change is preferable to the one contemplated, as it will give certainty, and, at the same time, simplify and lessen the labour of the Department. Before the commencement of the ensuing session of Congress, copies of all contracts for the conveyance of the mail, made prior to the first of July last, will be deposited in the Treasury. After that period, a duplicate of all contracts will be filed in the Treasury Department, as the law requires.

Accounts have been rendered to the Treasury, up to the 30th September, 1821. This part of the business of the office has not generally been brought up as near the current transactions as at present, but it is contemplated to have the accounts rendered to the Treasury as promptly, in future, as the operations of the De-

partment will admit. I have the honour to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN McLEAN.

The President of the U. States.

#### REPORT OF THE FIRST COMPTROLLER.

Treasury Department, Comptroller's Office, Nov. 26, 1823.

SIR: In compliance with the letter to you from the President of the United States, under date of the 10th inst. which you referred to me, wherein he requests to be furnished with a statement of the settlements, made between the 1st of October, 1822, and the 30th September, 1823, and with a statement of the amount remaining unsettled at the last mentioned date, distinguishing the several heads of Civil, Military, and Naval, from each other; I have the honour to transmit, herewith, a general statement, comprising the information required, together with the particular statements received from the Register, and the Second, Third, and Fourth Auditors of the Treasury, upon which the general statement has been predicated.

I beg leave to add that, agreeably to the request of the President, these statements have been made out upon the same principle with that which governed in making out the statements of a similar nature for the last year. I have the honour to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOS. ANDERSON, Comptroller.

Hon. WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD, Secretary of the Treasury.

STATEMENT exhibiting the amount of unsettled accounts on the books of the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury, on the 30th day of September, 1822; the amount since settled; and the amount remaining unsettled on the 1st day of October, 1823, viz.

Amount of unsettled accounts on the 1st of Oct. 1822, of moneys advanced prior to 3d of March, 1817	\$4,367,269 10
Deduct amount settled from 1st Oct. 1822, to 30th day of September, 1823	310,996 98
	\$4,056,272 1

Amount of unsettled accounts on the 1st of Oct. 1822, of moneys advanced from 3d March, 1817, to 1st Oct. 1822	4,598,832 87
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Amount of advances from 1st of Oct. 1822, to 30th Sept. 1823	2,450,000 26
	7,048,841 74

Deduct amount settled from 1st Oct. 1822, to 30th Sept. 1823,	2,275,296 16
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	\$4,773,345 58
Total amount remaining unsettled, 1st Oct. 1823,	\$8,829,617 70

STATEMENT, exhibiting the amount of accounts unsettled on the 30th September, 1822, in the Treasury, War, and Navy Departments, of moneys advanced prior, and subsequently, to the 4th March, 1817; the amount of accounts in relation to these advances, respectively, which were settled during the year ending on the 30th September, 1823; the amount of moneys drawn from the Treasury in that year; the amount of moneys drawn from the Treasury between the 4th of March, 1817, and the 30th of September, 1823, accounted for between the 30th of September, 1822, and 30th of September, 1823; the balances of these moneys remaining unsettled on the 30th of September, 1823; and the total amount of moneys drawn from the Treasury prior, and subsequently, to the 4th of March, 1817, remaining unsettled on the 30th of September, 1823.

#### In relation to moneys drawn from the Treasury prior to 4th March, 1817.

	Register's Books.	2d Auditor's Books.	3d Auditor's Books.	4th Auditor's Books.	Total.
Amount unsettled on the 30 Sept. 1822.	(a) 836,917 80	(a) 321,598 74	(a) 4,367,694 21	(a) 4,367,269 10	9,893,479 85
Am't settled between 30 Sept. 1822, & 30 Sep. 1823.	34,945 07	55,734 38	501,817 69	310,996 98	903,494 12
Balance remaining unsettled 30 Sept. 1823.	801,972 73	265,864 36	3,865,876 52	4,056,272 12	8,929,985 73

#### In relation to moneys drawn from the Treasury between 4th March, 1817, and 30th September, 1823.

Am't drawn between March 4, 1817, and 30 Sept. 1822, remained unsettled last mentioned day.	(b) 8,809,186 76	(b) 2,169,377 69	(b) 4,120,232 91	(b) 4,598,832 87	19,697,629 84
Am't drawn between 30 Sept. 1822, & 30 Sep. 1823.	7,410,998 44	2,353,623 10	2,977,524 97	2,450,000 26	15,192,155 83
Am't of acc'ts unsettled 30 Sept. 1822, including advances made in year ending 30 Sept. 1823.	16,220,185 20	4,523,500 85	7,097,757 88	7,048,841 74	34,890,085 67
Am't acc'd for between 30 Sept. 1822 & 30 Sep. 1823.	7,853,703 46	3,879,145 52	2,704,959 46	2,275,296 16	16,713,104 60
Balance rem'g to be accounted for 30 Sept. 1823.	(c) 8,366,481 74	644,355 33	4,392,798 42	4,773,345 58	18,176,981 07
Total amount of mon-ys drawn from Treasury, prior and subsequently to March 4, 1817, remaining unsettled 30 Sept. 1823.	(c) 9,168,454 47	910,219 69	8,198,674 94	8,829,617 70	27,106,966 80

(a) The lists rendered to Congress at their last session, pursuant to the act of 3d March, 1809, entitled "An act further to amend the several acts for the establishment and regulation of the Treasury, War, and Navy Departments," and the act of the 3d of March, 1817, entitled "An act to provide for the prompt settlement of public accounts," exhibit the particulars of which these several balances are composed, with the exception that the cases of insolvencies reported for three years, successively, are not conformably to the last mentioned act, comprised in these lists.

(b) The lists alluded to, also exhibit the particulars composing these sums, with the exception beforementioned, and that they do not extend to the balances which accrued between the 30th of September, 1819, and the 30th of September, 1822. These balances relate chiefly to accounts in a regular course of settlement.

(c) In these balances, respectively, is included the sum of \$6,319,389 05, advanced to the bank of the United States and its Branches, on account of the public debt, the greater part of which sum has, no doubt, been disbursed; but for these disbursements, credits could not, according to the regular course of settlement of such accounts, be given until after the 30th of September, 1823.



STATEMENT of the amount of accounts unsettled in the office of the Register of the Treasury, on the 30th Sept. 1822, arising from moneys advanced prior, and subsequently, to the 4th March, 1817; the amount of accounts, under each of those heads, which were settled during the year ending on the 30th Sept. 1823; the advances in that year, and the balances to be accounted for on the 1st October, 1823.

Of accounts which accrued from moneys advanced prior to the 4th March, 1817.

Amount which remained unsettled 30th Sept. 1822. \$836,917 80

Amount settled between 30th Sept. 1822, and 30th

Sept. 1823. 34,945 07

Balance to be accounted for on the 1st Oct. 1823. 801,972 73

Of accounts accruing from moneys advanced subsequently to the 4th March, 1817

Amount which remained unsettled 30th Sept. 1822. 8,809,188 76

Advances from 30th Sept. 1822, to 30th Sept. 1823. 7,410,998 44

Total amount unsettled on 30th Sept. 1822, and of

advances between that day and the 30 Sept. 1823. 16,220,185 20

Amount of settlements during the year ending 30th

Sept. 1823. 7,853,703 46

Balance to be accounted for on the 1st Oct. 1823. \*8,366,481 74

Total of balances to be accounted for on 1st Oct.

1823, of money advanced prior, and subsequently,

to 4th March, 1817. \*9,163,464 47

\* In these sum is included \$6,319,389 05, paid over to the Bank of the

United States and its Branches, for the payment of dividends of interest, and re-

imbursements of the public debt, declared to be due to stockholders prior to the

1st October, 1823.

STATEMENT showing the amount of accounts remaining unsettled in the Of-

fice of the Second Auditor of the Treasury, on the 30th of September, 1822;

the amount settled since that period, and the balance which remains to be

settled on the 30th of September, 1823.

Amount of unsettled accounts on 3d March, 1817,

remaining unsettled on the 30 Sept. 1822. \$321,598 74

Amount of unsettled accounts on 3d March, 1817,

settled between Oct. 1, 1822, and Sept. 30, 1823. 55,734 38

Amount of unsettled accounts on 3d March, 1817,

remaining unsettled on 30th Sept. 1823. 265,864 36

Amount of moneys drawn from Treasury between

4th March, 1817, and 30th Sept. 1822, remaining

unsettled on the last mentioned day. 2,169,877 69

Amount of moneys drawn from Treasury between

1st Oct. 1822, and 30th Sept. 1823. 2,353,623 16

Total amount of moneys drawn from the Treasury

between 4th March, 1817, and 30th Sept. 1822,

unaccounted for last mentioned day, and moneys

drawn from the Treasury between 1st Oct. 1822,

and 30th Sept. 1823. 4,523,500 85

Total amount of moneys drawn from the Treasury

between 4th March, 1817, and 30th Sept. 1822,

unaccounted for last mentioned day, and moneys

drawn from the Treasury between 1st Oct. 1822,

and 30th Sept. 1823, which have been settled. 3,879,145 52

Amount of moneys drawn from the Treasury be-

tween 4th March, 1817, and 30th Sept. 1822,

unaccounted for last mentioned day, and moneys

drawn from the Treasury between 1st Oct. 1822,

and 30th Sept. 1823, which remain to be settled. 644,355 33

Total amount of accounts unsettled. 910,219 69

STATEMENT of the amount of accounts unsettled, in the Office of the Third

Auditor, on the 30th of September, 1822; the amount settled from the 1st of

October, 1822, to the 30th of September, 1823; and the amount remaining

unsettled on the same day.

Amount of accounts remaining unsettled 30th Sept.

1822, of those accruing from moneys advanced

prior to the 4th of March, 1817. \$4,367,694 21

Amount of the same accounts, settled Sept. 30, 1823. 561,817 69

Amount of the same accounts, remaining unsettled

30th Sept. 1823. 3,805,876 52

Amount of accounts, remaining unsettled 30th Sept.

1822, from moneys advanced since March 3, 1817. 4,120,232 91

Amount of moneys drawn from the Treasury from

1st Oct. 1822, to the 30th Sept. 1823. 2,977,524 97

Total amount of accounts remaining unsettled 30th

Sept. 1822, from moneys advanced since March 3,

1817, and of moneys drawn from the Treasury,

1st Oct. 1822, to the 30th Sept. 1823. 7,097,757 88

Amount of account settled, from 1st Oct. 1822, to

30th Sept. 1823, arising from moneys advanced

since 3d March, 1817. 2,704,959 46

Amount of accounts remaining unsettled, 1st Oct.

1823, advances made since the 3d of March 1817. 4,392,798 42

NOTE.—Since the 1st of October, 1823, the amount of accounts

unsettled, of advances made since the 3d of March, 1817, has

been reduced \$799,470 94

## Laws.

CHAP. 16. An ACT authorizing the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to purchase the seven per cent. stock of the United States, in the year 1824.

[SEC. 1.] *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund be, and they are hereby, authorized to purchase, during the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, any stock of the United States, bearing an interest of seven per centum per annum, not exceeding the sum of eight millions six hundred and ten thousand dollars, upon such terms as they may think proper, not exceeding the following rates above the principal sum purchased, that is to say:

For all such stock as they may purchase before the first day of April next, at a rate not exceeding two dollars for every sum of one hundred dollars, in addition to the interest which would have accrued on that day upon the said stock:

For all such stock which they may purchase between the first day of April and the first day of July next, at a rate not exceeding seventy-five cents on every sum of one hundred dollars, in addition to the interest which would have accrued on the day last mentioned:

For all such stock which they may purchase between the first day of July and the first day of October next, at a rate not exceeding, on every sum of one hundred dollars, the amount of interest which would have accrued on the day last mentioned: and

For all such stock which they may purchase between the first day of October next and the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five, at a rate not exceeding the principal and the interest which shall have accrued at the day of purchase.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the said Commissioners are hereby authorized to make such purchases, under the foregoing restrictions, at such times and places as they may deem most expedient, out of any moneys, in the Treasury, heretofore appropriated for the redemption of the public debt, or out of any money in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated.

Washington, January 22d, 1823.—Approved.

JAMES MONROE.

CHAP. 17. An ACT to authorize the surveying and making a road from a point opposite to Memphis, in the state of Tennessee, to Little Rock, in the territory of Arkansas.

[SEC. 1.] *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to appoint three Commissioners, who shall explore, survey, and mark, in the most eligible course, a road from a point on the right bank of the river Mississippi, opposite to the town of Memphis, in the state of Tennessee, to Little Rock, in the territory of Arkansas; and said Commissioners shall make out accurate plats of such surveys, accompanied with field notes, and certify and transmit the same to the President of the United States; who, if he approves of the said survey, shall cause the plats thereof to be deposited in the Office of the Treasury of the United States, and the said road shall be considered as established and accepted.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the said road shall be opened and made under the direction of the President of the United States, who is hereby authorized to employ the troops of the United States in the completion, or assisting in the completion, of said road.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the said Commissioners shall, each, be entitled to receive three dollars, and their assistants one dollar and fifty cents, for each and every day which they shall be necessarily employed, in the exploring, surveying, and marking, said road: And for the purpose of compensating the aforesaid Commissioners and their assistants, and for opening and making said road, there shall be, and hereby is, appropriated, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, to be paid out of any moneys in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated.

Washington, January 31st, 1824.—Approved.

JAMES MONROE.